

point three

December 1995



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Happy Christmas
Understanding Sexuality
The Gift of Blood

The Magazine of



TOCH

point three

TOC H is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships and offer service across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group – at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood – which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it.

TOC H was founded in 1915 by the Revd PB 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about **TOC H** and about the world, as well as a record of **TOC H** service. Its title derives from the Third Point of the **TOC H** compass which asks us 'to think fairly'. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the **TOC H** Movement.

Point three is available from **TOC H** at the address below and contributions towards the high cost of production and mailing will be welcomed.

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Photo: Courtesy of the Cleveland Shopping Centre

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The Magazine of



TOC H

REG. CHARITY NO. 211042

TOC H brings together people of different ages, viewpoints, races and faiths in mutual understanding. We base all our work on our Christian principles.

Happy Christmas

This issue of *Point three* includes a report from November's Central Council Meeting in Swanwick. The weekend had a noticeable atmosphere of goodwill and an air of optimism, despite the threat looming over our future because of a shortage of members and our perilous financial situation.

Among the speakers at Council was the new North East Regional Chairman, Colin Fowler. Aged 30, Colin was formerly District Treasurer and works in finance as a Pensions Specialist. His obvious financial acumen adds to an already reassuring presence. More particularly, Colin joined Toc H six years ago, through membership of a Friendship Circle. And if there is any theme to this editorial, it is one of hope for our future. I have met Colin on several occasions, most recently at a reception in Cleveland. It is gratifying that he is so committed to Toc H and prepared to give a great deal of his time to the Movement. It is his belief 'that the world needs Toc H', and the message in his article on the facing page is an appeal to revitalise the Movement through team work, in the belief that a renewed team spirit is needed in everything we do.

There has been a sense of that spirit in many of our 80th birthday celebrations. It has been particularly meaningful to look back with appreciation at our achievements, at a time when we also celebrated the fact that 50 years have passed since the end of World War Two.

Let us hope that the new year sees a renewed sense of pride in our Movement and an increase in partnerships, not just between members and staff, but with other organisations. One such opportunity presents itself with the Toc H Blood Donor Campaign Day on 8 June, when members throughout the UK will be collecting names of potential blood donors, in collaboration with the National Blood Authority. Since we were pioneers in giving blood, in the days when transfusions were done person to person, we have come full circle.

Let me wish you all A Happy New Year, and a glimpse at the number of new members listed below should help start that year on a note of optimism.

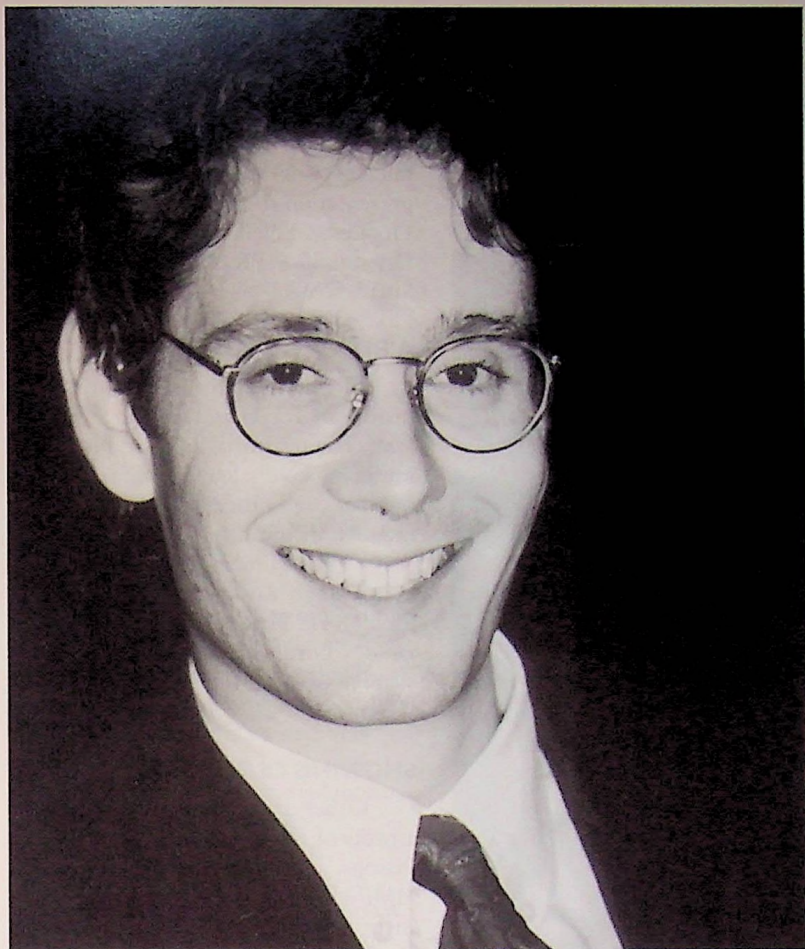
RUTH BOYD
EDITOR

Welcome

TO 33 NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER

Audrey Green, Edith Wise, Dora Wright *Belfairs* • Carter Clinton, Kai Davenport, Denzil Francis, Trevor Francis, Patrick Kelly, Gary Scott, Jason Simpson, Martin Smart, Simeon Tapper *Central Branch* • Stephen Crabtree *Nottingham City* • Molly Cantelo, Peggy Hayles *Parkhurst* • Mavis Reed, Rose Symonds *Rawmarsh* • Julian Banks, Jennifer Carlon, Darrell Christie, Peggy Hayles, Debbie Jones *Winsford Development Group* • David Austin, Sandra Austin, William Brownlow, Keith Dutton, Glenis Dutton, Carole Evans, Penny Gore, Hilda Jeffs, Audrey Hardman, Johanna Whiteside, Kenneth Whiteside *Halton Group* •

Eyes North



The North East Region has been very involved in publicity for Toc H during the course of this anniversary year and there are several articles with a decidedly Northern focus in this issue. The editor asked the new Chairman of the Region, *Colin Fowler*, to introduce himself to readers:

When Ruth Boyd asked me to introduce myself and say something about the Region as a whole, the thought sprang to mind, *what shall I say?*

Well, I suppose I could say I am 30 years old, I live in Darlington, County Durham, and have been a member of Toc H for about six years now. I work in finance, as a pensions specialist, and have spent the last five years qualifying in my chosen field.

I could also mention that I came to Toc H as a member of a Friendship Circle, the idea of not being a

'volunteer' but a true member was something of a revelation...I still believe the concept is unique and that it truly represents the spirit of the Old House.

But no, enough of personal history and experience, I want to look to the future. The coming year for Toc H is going to be an extremely challenging one. By now many of you reading this, who were not at Central Council, will have heard the recording of Mike Lyddiard's speech and will have either dismissed it or risen to the challenge.

For those of you who have risen to the challenge (and I am sure there will be many who have) I believe that the only way we will bring about a revitalisation of the Movement is through Team Work. The notion of team work encompasses many things; tolerance, fairness, trust, strategy, communication and planning. It also, for me, suggests innovation and achievement.

In its 80 years Toc H has achieved much. If Toc H is to achieve as much in the next 80 years we are going to have to make a start in employing the team spirit in everything that we do.

I know, I know - you are sitting reading this thinking; 'I've heard all this before, more words, more high ideals'. What we need, is to put such concepts into practice. It is my belief that we can do this if we approach the next 12 months in a pragmatic way.

By the time you are reading this, I hope, the North East Region will have agreed a Work Plan for the next two years. This plan will include a commitment to creating a real partnership between members and staff and, in addition, will look at internal communication, fundraising and publicity. Most important of all, the 'Work Plan' will have identified five or six key pieces of work that, as a Region, we are going to work together on; the most obvious is the Region's involvement in the Blood Donor initiative.

Finally, I believe that Toc H is in real danger of fragmenting, as it searches for solutions to problems which not only face us as a Movement, but which face us as a Society. I firmly believe that the process of fragmentation has to stop. Divisions, and from where I am sitting there are many, have to be healed and only when we have started to pull together can we make ourselves relevant to the Society of which we are part.

Toc H as a Movement is crying out for metamorphosis; like the television series, *Dr. Who*, Toc H needs to have a face for each generation; like the television series we can still retain the core values on which we were founded, while attracting new audiences to complement the old.

We have a great deal to do; but I think you will agree that Toc H, and what it stands for, is worth all the effort!

Colin Fowler

Eyes North - Cleveland Publicity

TOC H IN THE NEWS

Publicity for Toc H in Cleveland got off to a good start with the broadcasting of the BBC *Close up North* programme, when Marilyn Surtees was interviewed about our work with vulnerable teenage girls. Then the Toc H Webb House Music Group participated in an event celebrating World Mental Health Day and raised nearly £100 for local funds. Much more was to follow...

With Toc H's 80th Birthday as our theme, the second major Publicity Week was launched at the Cleveland Shopping Centre in Middlesbrough during the schools' half term holiday. Occupying an area six times bigger than last year, Toc H was able to make quite an impact on the general public.

A PARTNERSHIP

Organised by a partnership of members and staff across the Region, the Publicity Week officially opened at midday on 23 October with a cheque presentation to the Toc H Thrift Shop Organiser, Edie Coltman, from Division One PR & Appeals man, Stuart Wroe.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The first day focused on the history of Toc H and the First World War. The territorial army and local museums kindly loaned uniforms, sandbags and other artifacts of local interest for our display. Two brave

← Toc H members were coerced (surprisingly easily) to dress up in First World War uniforms and a famous Lord Kitchener poster was adapted by Alan Budge to read *Toc H Wants You*.

SHOWING OUR WORK

Other days focused on different aspects of our work, such as with Prisons, and included a display from HMP Deebolt Young Offenders Institute. On our Toc H *International Day*, leaflets were made available in several languages. We were joined by the Council for Racial Equality, whose Director, Mr Jagra, (pictured bottom right with Tom Elliott, Membership Support Officer) is a well respected community leader. Mr Jagra was so enthusiastic about this event that he is already talking about the next one.

TOC H IS FUN

A star attraction during the week were the *parachute games* organised by Neal and Tracy Terry. These were incredibly popular with children and adults alike, with queues of children waiting for a turn. Other attractions included the Webb House Music Group and the South Bank Brass Band - which has a lot of prestige among local people.

At the end of the week, those of us who were still on our feet took part in a *Lantern Walk* organised in partnership with the Cleveland Countryside Rangers. This was well attended by local people.



Photo reproduced by kind permission of North of England Newspapers (Westminster Press Ltd)

Week - 23-28 October

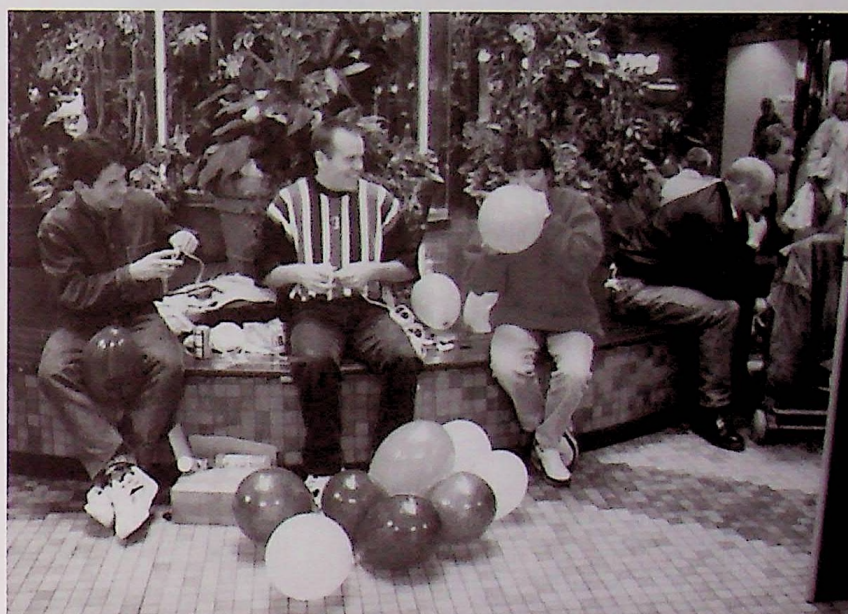
THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

A buffet reception to celebrate Toc H's birthday brought together people from all over the Cleveland/Durham area. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Middlesbrough, who was presented with a memento by Audrey Smith, District Chairman. Guest speaker was our very own *Point three* editor, Ruth Boyd. After the speeches and formalities, the party got under way. The Mayor enjoyed himself so much he was one of the last to leave!



PEOPLE

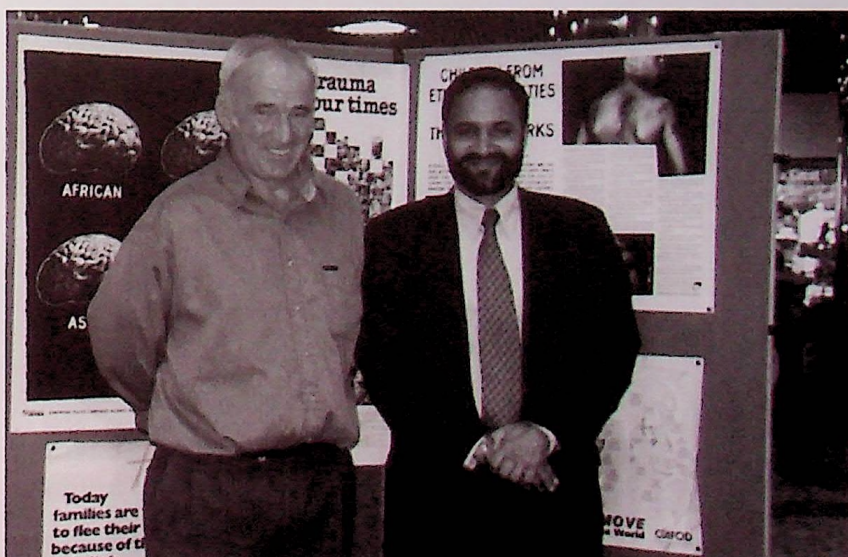
A whole host of people supported the events in Cleveland and thanks must go to David Ward, Centre Manager, who arranged for a special banner to be made for Toc H and whose staff were very supportive. Our display stands were manned by very enthusiastic volunteers, including Rob and Jason from Kirklevington Young Offenders Institute. Also newly introduced to Toc H was Roger, our NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) trainee, who brought along several friends to help out. Finally, we would like to express our thanks to BR Pensions, Egglecliffe School, The Green Howard and Dorman Museums, British Home Stores and Coulby Newham Territorial Army.



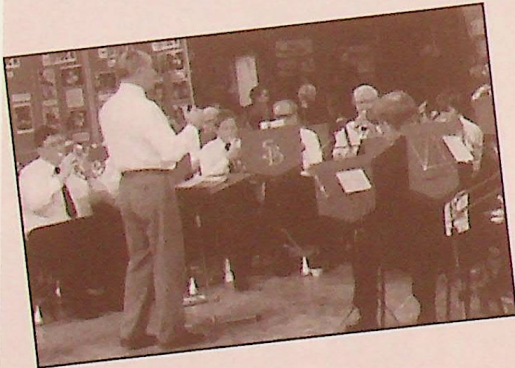
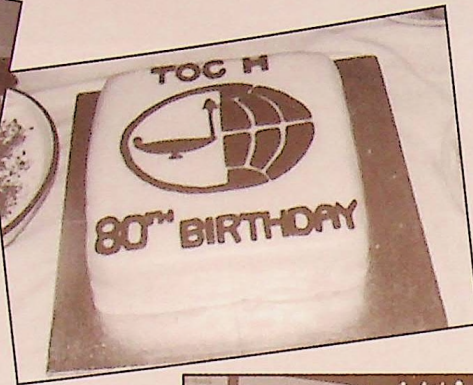
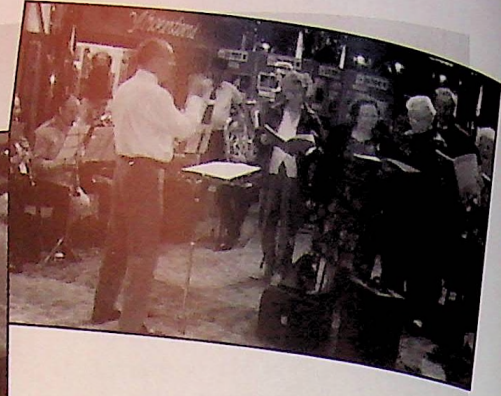
A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Well, we collected around 500 names and addresses; have been offered possible sponsorship/fund money from a local businessman; received daily coverage by local BBC Radio, including a live interview with Toc H member John Bayes and staff member Susan Huddleston, as well as interest from local papers both during and after *The Event*. Lots of new contacts were made during the process of organising the event and approximately £730 was raised for Toc H funds. As one visitor to the display commented, *this is brilliant!*

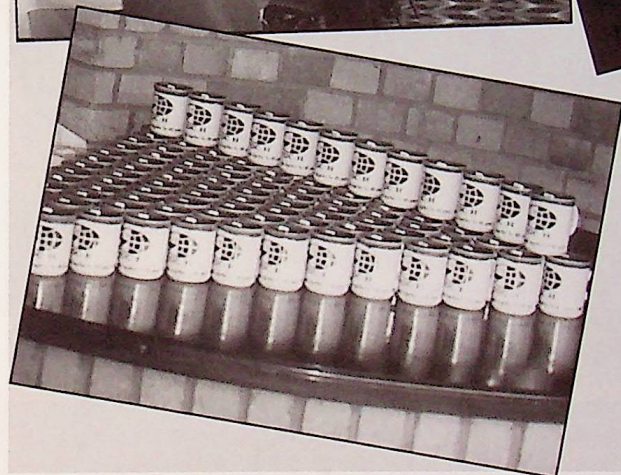
Susan Huddleston



Eyes North - Cleveland Publicity



South Yorkshire District



An 80th Birthday Party for 80 eighty-year olds.

Over 100 people sat down to lunch at the Sheffield United Executive Suite on 11 October for South Yorkshire District's celebration of 80 years of Toc H. Sylvia Pratt, District Secretary, introduced the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and is seen in one of the photos cutting the cake with the Lady Mayoress. Sylvia masterminded an outstandingly successful occasion, together with district members, the regional staff and Division One team. Particular thanks go to Peter Grey of *The Sheffield Star* for his considerable efforts in publicising the event and enthusiastic participation in the proceedings. Some of the guests were familiar with Talbot House and 101 year-old Frank Sellers was 21 when he visited the Old House during the Great War.

Understanding Sexuality

John Dunwell reports on a fascinating recent CAMEO at Whitby, Yorkshire:

The issue of sexuality - and particularly homosexuality - has repeatedly been of media interest this year. In the belief that intolerance and conflict arises out of misunderstanding, ignorance and prejudice, this CAMEO aimed to offer the opportunity to 'get behind the labels' by bringing together people of different sexual orientation to explore the issues and thereby reduce that prejudice.

What a mixed group it was! We included heterosexual, homosexual and transsexual people among our number, who gathered to discuss and share experiences and opinions on sexuality issues, ranging from morals and legalities - through to impact on others such as family, equality and health - to sexuality and the Church.

Assisting with questions about the Church, we were grateful for the involvement of the Right Revd Derek Rawcliffe. Now retired and living in Leeds, Bishop Derek was 'outed' in October 1993 by the Church of England Newspaper, when they pointed out that he was the only bishop in the Church of England to

admit to being gay, his name being drawn from the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM) Open List. With his unique perspective, Bishop Derek was able not only to relate his personal story of coming to terms with his homosexuality, but also to guide us through the often contradictory writings in the Bible on the subject. He set this in the context of the world the people of the Bible actually lived in, but pointed out that the Christian way is one of love and commitment in relationships, with nothing being said by Jesus about the issue of homosexuality.

Perhaps the most frank account of the weekend was the experience of Philippa, a post-operative transsexual. Her story stimulated many questions and much discussion.

Everyone fully contributed in giving, sharing and learning from one another. If there was a weakness with the event, it was that all the participants were so open to understanding that there was none of the displaying of the more extreme and prejudicial views which so often are found among a cross-section of society.

If among our readers there are those who believe that all homosexuals are child abusers, or that men choose

to be gay and set out to persuade young men and boys to also be homosexual, then I would urge them to attend an event such as this CAMEO. These are just two common misconceptions. The reality is that most child abuse is by fathers to daughters, but society does not suggest that all fathers are child molesters. It is not known whether the reasons for homosexuality are biological, or psychological, or a combination of both, but it is clearly not a matter of choice and people cannot be recruited by argument, abuse or love.

The CAMEO ended with the agreement that a follow-up event with an even broader mix of people, particularly people who are homophobic, would be more challenging and beneficial. But without exception, we all felt that we had been challenged and stimulated and that we had learnt something new.

John Dunwell



Pippa's Story: *Five years ago I was a happily married family man, or so everyone believed, including my wife. The reality was far different. Only two years earlier, (I was 49 then), we had celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary and, in the process, we had repeated our wedding vows in a church service. For me it was a confirmation of a good marriage and lovely family. We have two grown-up sons. At that time I genuinely thought I could last out for the rest of my life as a 'pretend' man, although from my earliest consciousness I have felt that I have been in the wrong body.*

The fact is that I am a transsexual and anything I have ever done has not changed that fact. My only regret is for those people close to me whose lives have been affected by my lack of courage in saying or doing anything many, many, years earlier. My own anguish and feelings of guilt are because of the distress and pain I have brought to my loved ones. My inevitable change of gender role, when I became myself at last, and shed the veneer I had worn for so long, came at a huge cost to my family and an everlasting relief, and peace of mind, to myself.

As time passes, family and friends seem better able to cope and understand. Love has an enormous healing potential and this has been one of the most enlightening and sustaining aspects in recent years. My Christian faith has also been of enormous help in a long and sometimes very lonely fight to live as my true self - with a chance to realise my full potential.

I know my family have been hurt, humiliated, and have suffered a great deal. I also know that the hurt would have been far greater if I had not finally moved into my true role in life. Initially the hurt felt by my loved ones was out of embarrassment, fear of the unknown and worry for themselves and for me. This is a

natural reaction, particularly in a small northern community such as ours. I only wish I could have helped them more in the relief of their pain.

As I have become more established as my true self, so they seem to have been able to better understand and, in doing so, we have moved forward in love and friendship. We all deserve the opportunity to live to our full potential, to be able to live our time on this earth with dignity, love and companionship - to play our part in our community without fear or favour. God brought us all into this life as we are, and gave us a free will to follow or reject his way and to utilise or to waste our potential. Live life to the full in love, care and understanding - and everything else will follow.

Down on the Farm ...

After the success of last year's Nativity Play at the Huddersfield Community Farm, we came up with the idea of a relaxing conservation week *Down on the Farm*.

When the farm had originally opened in 1985 there was a canal-side picnic area, complete with tables and benches. The Leeds Liverpool canal runs alongside the farm. Since then the area had become completely overgrown - a mass of young trees, weeds and grasses.

Our challenge over a week in August was to find the tables, clear the area and restore it to its former glory. Ann Horsfield joined us from Middlesbrough as an excellent co-leader the project, bringing her two children Amanda and Jamie. This was the first project I have taken part in where a participant's children were present throughout, and Jamie and Amanda's presence certainly gave the week a different dimension. It was great having them around and I hope other project organisers will set up more projects that can realistically accommodate children.

Austin and Caroline, also from

Middlesbrough, seemed to get a lot from the experience. Zoe arrived from Newcastle for her first Toc H experience and was soon happily giving orders! The group was completed by Russell from Skipton, who has offered support for our work in Huddersfield. We received invaluable assistance from 14-year-old Daniel who was helping on the farm during his school holidays. The rest of the farm team gave us a lot of practical and personal support. It was a lovely place to work and by the end of the week we all felt very much at home.

The work was hard and the August heatwave made it hot. The trees which we had to cut back, though by no means giant redwoods, offered stern resistance and there was a lot of strenuous hacking. But by the end of the week we had cleared the space around three picnic tables. We even found time to mark VJ Day (15 August) with a canalside period of reflection which included silence, poems and a reminder to *Share the Peace*.

When we had cleared the site, one of the problems remaining was that a few large tree stumps - which had been impossible to uproot - would be

dangerous. Christine, the farm manager, made the inspired suggestion that we could nail some cross sections of wood onto the stumps, making 'toadstool' seats. We had heard people using a chainsaw in the woods behind the farm, so we sent two volunteers to ask for suitable wood which we then fixed to the stumps. This was an example of how a problem, if treated as a challenge, can often produce delightful solutions!

The week ended with a barbecue, when we played host to farm workers and visitors. Sitting in the sun, surrounded by new and old friends and reflecting on a good week's work, I thought, *this is Toc H*.

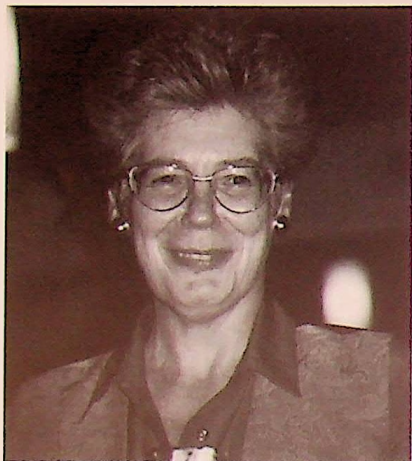
We have completed two other weekend projects at the farm this year, working with children from local council estates. I recently met with James Devitt, just appointed as the farm's Development Officer. He is interested in starting a long-term project to build a nature trail around the farm, which may well provide ongoing opportunities for Toc H involvement.

Alan Budge



Central Council '95

Central Council this year was the first time we had met in the newly updated Swanwick Conference Centre. Everyone agreed that the alterations were a considerable improvement and the *fare* too seemed to have risen in standard accordingly. Janet Clay, N Wales and NW Regional Project Co-ordinator, is seen in the photo showing her approval.



Janet Clay

The weekend events opened on an impressive note on Friday evening, with Trustee Betty Cornick chairing an excellent *Any Questions* session - the panel comprising staff and members.

Daphne Dawes (SW Region) opened proceedings on Saturday, with *Reflections* on an Armistice theme. Central Council this year celebrated 80 years of Toc H, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. There were displays showing photos of 80 years of Toc H, and Toc H staff in Germany showed a video of the history of their work. Alison House's Bill Pepper also came up trumps with a display.

The Royal messages were read, the one from Clarence House stating: '.....Queen Elizabeth was particularly pleased to learn of the plaque that has been unveiled in memory of Tubby Clayton for he is often in The Queen Mother's memories.....'

There was also a message of goodwill from South Africa. Ten non-Toc H members were in attendance.

The Vice Chair, Helen James, announced in her report that this was

the year when we had finally addressed the problem of our deficit. Addressing the deficit had been the main focus of the CEC this year, and a Task Force had been established with a brief to make a substantial reduction in this year's deficit. Helen stated the need to 'turn the Movement round' and that it was vital for our funds to last long enough to ensure that this would happen. Some difficult decisions had been made - there had been staff cuts as well as the closure of Cuddesdon House. Lindridge House had also been threatened, but responsibility for the future of this had been taken over by the South West Region.

Helen stated that the implementation of the Strategic Plan had indicated that the principles involved had been sound, and there were positive signs that the criteria for growth was being met. The implementation of *Division two* would therefore go ahead, but with no increase in staff. *Division three* was planned to go ahead in 1997, but Helen requested that Council might agree to implement the *Division* earlier, and a show of hands was sought accordingly. Trustee Keith Rea spoke of the dangers of running the Movement with such a heavy deficit, and Nancy Kilburn (SE Region) and John Evans (W Mids and S Wales Region) queried how the new Divisions could practicably be implemented without extra funding. Ted Tunnadine (Birmingham Outward Group and former Treasurer) stressed the urgency of our financial plight and the enormity of the problem.

Helen James (*below*) assured



Council that this matter would be the primary task of the CEC for next year.

Another key issue in the Vice Chair's Report was the progress being made by the ad hoc group considering 'branches as part of the structure'. One of the recommendations had been that Toc H should move towards central registration of membership and that there should be equal opportunities for membership through all our methods. Central Council agreed that this work should be carried forward, with a view to a formal Motion coming to Central Council next year.

A vote was then passed that Council would, in principle, agree to going ahead with *Division three* earlier than planned.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

Gerry Conibeer, Honorary Treasurer, then presented the financial statements for the year ended 31 March. He stressed that strenuous efforts were being made to improve our financial affairs and that there would be inevitable staff losses, in a process of rationalisation. The deficit shown for the year was in excess of a million pounds, but work undertaken by the CEC - through the Task Force - had already made a considerable reduction in this figure. A financial plan was already in the closing stages of completion - taking full account of Toc H's deficit, its liabilities and what was needed to afford a sustainable growth for the Movement.

One of the points emphasised strongly by the Treasurer was the fact that we are now in a position to record very accurately the activities of branches. Assets held by branches went up by 29% last year, which he stressed 'indicates that a section of Toc H is hiding their money under a bush and not putting it to good use'. There were a number of questions from the floor, including questions about our investments from Colin Fowler (NE Region), Matthew Plumridge (CEC), and Doug Parker (SE Region). There were also questions concerning the enormity of the task to be done to improve our financial situation.

Ted Turner gave a gracious note of thanks to Gerry for the huge amount of time that he gives to Toc H in his role as Treasurer: 'He gives and gives and he gives again'. This affirmation was endorsed by the Chairman Mary Edwards.

The formal Motions then began, with Pat Turner (CEC), proposing that 12 members be appointed to serve on the CEC, excluding ex officio members. This resolution was passed and 15 members stood for the 12 places. The following were elected: Diane Claxton, John Evans, Judi Ranson, Pat Turner, John Cox, Helen James, Neal Terry, Jean Whiteman, Mary Edwards, Matthew Plumridge, Jeremy Topham and Chris Williams.



The newly elected CEC

Central Council was asked to rescind the Resolution of the 1988 Council, enabling staff to be elected or co-opted to the CEC. This was to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission. The resolution was passed.

Jeremy Topham (CEC) proposed, and Chris Williams (W Mids and S Wales Chair) seconded, the suggestion that Central Council be reduced to 70 elected members and that the CEC should seek ways and means of achieving this by Central Council 1998. Arthur Heffernan (Central Branch) spoke about the role of Councillors, and was warmly welcomed back - following a long spell in hospital with serious illness.

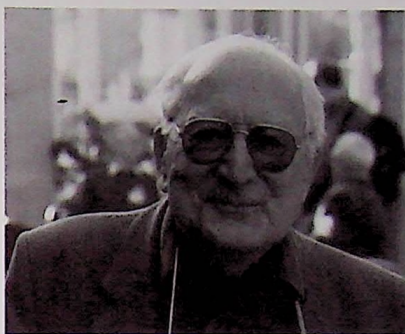


Arthur and Jean Heffernan

Colin Fowler stressed the need to examine the whole role of Central Councillor as well as looking at Toc H in its entirety - making sure that, as a Movement, we are relevant to today's needs.

Some suggestions from the floor included a wish to return to 'constituency' councillors rather than regional councillors. Chris Williams spoke of how the role of Councillor could develop into being part of a district or regional team. The motion was passed with a substantial majority.

George Davis (Southern Region) proposed, and Fred Davis seconded, that CEC should be reduced to eight elected members, which was the minimum required by Royal Charter.



George Davis

The motion was strongly opposed, and several CEC members pointed out the considerable amount of work being undertaken by individual members, particularly during the present financial difficulties. Harry Brier (Lindley Branch) had spent a total of 25 years on the CEC, and urged that it would be most unwise to reduce numbers.

Harold Naylor (SE Region) then proposed, and Beryl Collins (SE Region) seconded, a resolution that CEC examine ways and means for Central Councillors to fulfil their role in representing the views of members on the life and work of Toc H.

This provoked considerable discussion, with members such as Tony Spencer (London District) asking whether we knew the existing spread of membership and how we related the spread of Councillors to cover branches. Anne Puddicombe (NE Region) confirmed that this was being discussed in the Branch/Group Working Party. Several speakers spoke of the need to recognise all Toc H Methods. The motion was passed.

Then followed the Director's Speech, which is available in an abridged form on cassette tape from

Wendover - thanks to the hard work of Councillor Laurie Tuckey.

THE DIRECTOR

Mike spoke very movingly about the task ahead of us and the need to accept the seriousness of our financial predicament, to rise to the challenge and help to do something to redress the situation. He spoke of the urgency of getting Toc H on to a sound financial basis, of developing and supporting work which will make a direct and positive contribution to the Movement's future - especially through increased participation in Toc H events - and an enlarged membership.

The Director spoke with passion and conviction in exhorting the membership to rally round and secure our future, leaving listeners with the challenge he called *The Great People Hunt*. He urged us to share the unassailable spirit that embodies Toc H - by spreading the word and getting people involved in the Movement.

On Sunday, the Revd Tony Holden, a Methodist Minister who works with the Methodist Mission Alongside the Poor, spoke about the family and values. His challenging and thought-provoking ideas were deeply interesting, and council attenders then broke into small discussion groups to share their personal responses and values.

THE TOC H BLOOD DONOR RECRUITMENT DAY - 8 JUNE 1996

An important announcement at council was in the form of a presentation by Colin Ridgway (Walsall Branch), Chris Williams and Pat Turner (CEC). This was the announcement that Toc H were joining forces with the National Blood Authority for a major campaign to recruit blood donors on 8 June. The three presenters urged that every member, branch, group, and those associated with Projects, CAMEOs and Friendship Circles could take part.

In strongly supporting the suggestion, Betty Cornick pointed out that Toc H had been pioneers in giving blood, in the days when transfusions were conducted person to person. Freda Parker (Mid East Region) was among the many who enthusiastically supported the plan.

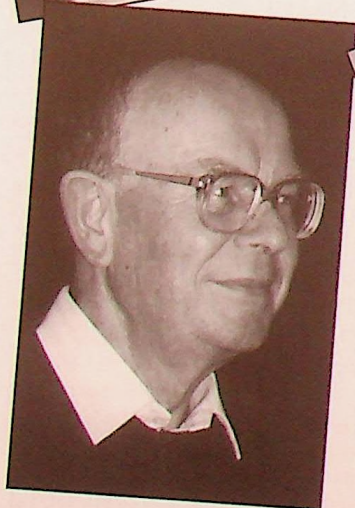
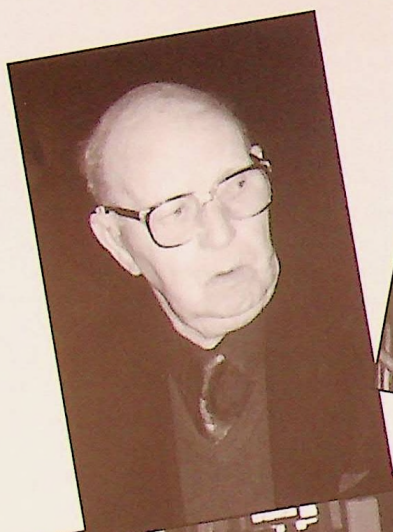
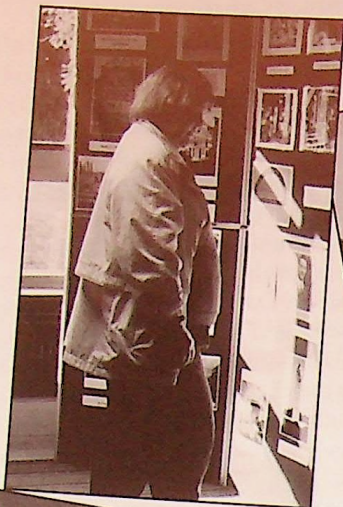
(See article from National Blood Authority on page 13)

Ruth Boyd

Central Council '95

SWANWICK

Betjeman Berated.
Each November
When Far Firework Fright, not flight
Fills the empty chill night
A frost breath
Brings Death.
Chestnut leaves
Large and red as chapped raw hands
Fall and thaw and claw around
At leaf mould musked,
Time greened ground. Stuart Wroe



The Gift of Blood



A Donor Session Following the Clapham Train Disaster

The National Blood Service (NBS) was set up in 1946 to provide blood and its components for hospitals in England and Wales. Throughout its 50 years the Service has been an indispensable part of Britain's health services. It depends entirely on voluntary blood donations from the general public and is a genuinely benevolent organisation with the sole aim of providing blood to help patients in need.

Last year the NBS collected 2.4 million donations. These were used to help 800,000 patients. Demand for blood is constant and growing. Hospitals in England alone need 10,000 units (donations) a day and, with more patients being treated, the number of donations required has increased by 4% in each of the last two years.

Nowadays very little blood is used whole. Over 90% of donations are divided into components - red cells, platelets and plasma. This means that each donation can help several patients. Red cells are used to replace blood lost during surgery and to treat anaemia; platelets are clotting agents which are used in the treatment of leukaemia; plasma is the yellowish fluid which is left over when the red cells and platelets have been removed and contains a variety of proteins. Most of the plasma is frozen and sent to the Bio Products Laboratory in Elstree, Herts, where it is

manufactured into a range of blood products such as Factor VIII which helps people with haemophilia to lead normal lives. The other main products produced from plasma are albumin, which is used for patients with severe burns or shock, and immunoglobulins which help to protect the body against infections.

Anyone who is between the ages of 18 and 60 and is in good health can become a blood donor. When you arrive at a session a drop of blood is taken from your finger and tested to make sure that you are not anaemic. You will also be asked a few questions about the state of your health. The actual donation, supervised by a doctor or nurse, will take about 5 to 10 minutes. You will then be advised to rest for about 15 to 20 minutes before having the traditional cup of tea and biscuit. Giving blood is a simple procedure and most donors feel only the slightest discomfort. There is no risk of being infected in any way. All the equipment used is new and sterile and is never re-used.

All blood is tested to make sure that it is free of viruses such as HIV and hepatitis

B and C. If a test proves positive the donor will be informed in a sensitive and confidential way.

The NBS does not make any profit from the blood, which is freely donated by volunteers. Hospitals pay only a handling charge which covers the cost of collecting, testing, processing and delivery. The rise in demand for red cells has resulted in a surplus of blood products made from plasma. Once all the needs of patients in the UK have been met, the NBS sometimes offers the surplus products for sale overseas. The income received is reinvested in the Service and helps to cover the cost of producing the products. The NBS does not make any profit on these sales. The alternative to selling these surplus products would be to burn them, and when donors have been asked about this issue they have generally agreed that it is better to sell the surplus products overseas - and use the income to help the NHS rather than to burn them.

Donor sessions are held all over the country in towns and villages, offices and factories. Donors can choose to attend a session near their work or home. The lives of thousands of patients depend on the generosity of ordinary men and women - who are prepared to give an hour or so two or three times a year to give their blood.

Toc H has been involved with the Blood Service from its earliest days and we look forward to working with you in our 50th Anniversary year to recruit more volunteers. The gift of blood is one which truly saves lives.

To enrol as a donor you can call 0345 711 711 anytime (local rates apply).

Sue Cunningham



Award Ceremony

Cheshire Projects



Parenting Partnerships was the title of a summer project at Alison House, organised by *Jennifer Carlon* of the Cheshire Staff Team to bring together young mothers and older parents from different backgrounds:

A team of enthusiastic volunteers came along to provide an exciting 'playscheme' for the older children, which gave the older parents the



freedom to get involved with the young mums and their babies.

One of the highlights of the project was a day out to Gulliver's Kingdom, Matlock, with all 25 members of the group.

The beautiful grounds of Alison House provided an excellent location for energetic games, which set the pace for the rest of the project - exhausting

but extremely rewarding.

Friendships were formed in a very short time. For the first tentative hours, mothers protected their babies, fathers chatted quietly to their children and the young volunteers began to wonder what they had let themselves in for. But even that first evening, babies were passed around and many conversations could be heard. I used to fall into bed at around midnight each night, but I am told that the fun and games went on until the very early hours!

It is hoped that a family group will be established in the Winsford area to enable these parents to meet on a regular basis. Initially this will be primarily for friendship, but there is a demand for more Toc H projects.

I look back on the pleasures of this, my first Toc H project, whenever I am having a bad day.

Jennifer Carlon

See New Members-page 2

The other member of the Cheshire Staff Team, *Johanna Whiteside*, adds:

Over in Halton, I too feel fully fledged and have the scars to prove it!

In early July our first Toc H Family Art Group opened in Widnes. Our youngest member is Annabel (15 months), who loves to paint herself, while her mum Sandra astounds us with her hidden talents. Sandra couldn't remember when she had last been able to totally switch off from the stresses of everyday life, and is now keen to organise events so that other families can enjoy the benefit of a break away from the 'home' routine.

Carole and Glenys are our experts and are never short of ideas. Some weeks we are up to our elbows in papier mache, the next we are printing on Mrs Jeffs' silk parachute, kept from her war days. We are planning an art/craft exhibition early next year.

During the summer our numbers grew, with the arrival of all the school age children joining us. We ran three 'sculpture workshops' at Norton Priory - each lasting three hours. Our first session saw us confronted with a mound of branches and the task of making them into birds - which we achieved with the help of bits of string, copper pipes, hammers and nails.

Lindridge House was the setting

for two holidays during the summer. The first week saw us out every day, visiting the sights and attractions of Devon - particularly successful was the visit to *The Woodlands Farm Park*. With eight children, aged from 4 to 10 years, outings during the second week took a little more organising. A memorable incident was when we went to the beach one evening and the children went straight into the sea, fully dressed! The adults got just as wet when their feeble attempts to remove shoes and outer clothes failed. There was plenty of laughter, a few tears, and conversations that lasted until the very early hours.

The friendships that were made on both holidays have continued back at home and events are being planned to encourage others to join us.

During this summer, local representatives from international organisations joined other local agencies and religious groups at our *Share the Peace* event at Norton Priory. Thirty people attended, each contributing a reading, prayer, poem or song.

Our second Toc H Art/Craft Group met at Norton Priory this autumn, and our Toc H group in Halton is busy planning events for the next 12 months.

Johanna Whiteside



BOOK REVIEW

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

Mike Walton, former member of the Toc H staff, together with colleague Jean Howarth, has produced a book of readings used in daily worship within the school at which they teach. This has now been published by Heinemann Education under the title *Moments of Reflection*. There's a different theme for each week of the school year, with readings for each year group within a secondary school. Any teacher faced with the need to produce acts of worship, in a small group rather than at assembly, to comply with the 1988 Education Act, will find this book invaluable.

But I believe its value will prove to be far wider than its specific target audience. Any of us faced with the need to lead a time of reflection, within a branch or on a project, will find this a real resource. A few of the readings seem to me too sentimental for use with an adult group - indeed I wonder what the children will make of them. Some of the readings and comments are very specifically addressed to the school situation. But most of them are much more general in their application.

Many of the themes reflect Mike's experience of Toc H - some of the headings indeed are taken directly from *Joyful Journey*. If the source of most of the readings is Christian there are also contributions from other religious traditions and the whole is imbued with the recognition, in the words of one reading, that 'our spirituality doesn't show itself only when we pray, meditate or go to church. Spirituality is much wider and deeper than that. Nearly everything we do is a reflection of the presence or absence of a spiritual dimension in our lives.' The whole collection is earthed, as all true religion must be, in real human experience. Warmly commended. Ken Prideaux-Brune

Tributes

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

SEPTEMBER: Wilfred Bailey *Late Richmond*, Irene Brooker *Bognor Regis*, Phyllis McLaren *Late Twydall*, Margaret Stevenson *Levenmouth*, James Guthrie *Selkirk*

OCTOBER: Griffith 'Tom' Asquith *Ouse & Hull*, Marjorie 'Joan' Danmers *Late SW Counties*, Eric Devoil *EC & Tower Hill*, Kenneth Goddard *Late Wessex District*, Eileen Hogarth *Kendal*, Ralph Marshall *Deal & Walmer*, Ronald Selby *Wright Scotland*

NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED: Oscar Cantrell *Late Chesterfield*, Graham Nicklin *Late Stockport*, Kenneth Preston *Late Wessex*

Phyllis McLaren, of Twydall Joint Branch, died suddenly while on holiday at her daughter's home in Canada on 29 September. She was a very loyal member who was also our Treasurer. BT

A long standing member and a well respected and influential leader in Toc H in Yorkshire, died on 7 October at the age of 82. Griffith Thomas Ellis (Tommy) Asquith, MBE, of Howden, East Yorkshire, was Chairman of the East Yorkshire Area for a number of years prior to the regionalisation of Toc H. He was editor of the Regional magazine, Northern Light. A teacher by profession, Tommy taught at Howden, where he was brought up, then became headmaster at the village school of Burton Pidsey in the East Riding for 19 years, and finally at Fulford, York. Following his retirement, he moved back to Howden where he was actively involved in the Civic Society and later became President. He was also the founder member of the movement to establish a Barnes Wallis Museum in Howden and was awarded the MBE. The Museum was eventually sited at Elvington, near York. RS

Wilfred Joseph (Bill) Bailey died on 23 September, following a protracted illness. He was a former member of Richmond Mens Branch and his old friends much regret to report his death at the age of 83. Bill entered Toc H in his teens and enjoyed over 50 years of active membership. He was an excellent Pilot, giving useful guidance to younger members. He will be much missed. TD

It is with deep sadness that Edgmond Joint Branch report the death of one of its long serving members, Evelyn Wickstead. Evelyn was always very willing to help with fundraising events and was a former Pilot and Vice Chairman. We all miss her, but give thanks for her wonderful help in past years. LB

It is with much sorrow that Sudbury (Suffolk) Branch report the death of Dorothy Mulley in September after a long illness. As well as holding the offices of Secretary and Jobbie and representing the Branch at District team meetings, 'Mulley' was always busy, knitting and crocheting colourful blankets, making items for our Annual Fayre, and helped at the Sue Ryder Home in Cavendish. She was a much loved, most hardworking, enthusiastic branch member. MB

Ralph Marshall, who died on 7 October, had been a member for over 60 years, first in Deal and Walmer Men's Branch, and then the Joint Branch. A Central Councillor of many years standing, Ralph met his wife Florrie, a current Central Councillor, at a Toc H Concert Party rehearsal. A keen church member, a sidesman and later church warden, Ralph also ran the youth club at St Mary's Church, Walmer, where he lived for many years. He was a very much respected and loved member of his later church, St Nicholas, at Sholden. May he rest in peace. FM

BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS



Jack Turner of Kempston Branch, with the Mayor and Mayoress of Bedford and John Chew, Bedford Branch Chairman, at Bedford Library's Toc H 80th anniversary display.



Division One staff member, Stuart Wroe, washing dishes at the International Project at Talbot House, in company with Diccon and Jean-Baptiste.

St Anne's-on-Sea Branch celebrated the 80th birthday of Toc H with a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, followed by refreshments and a birthday cake. Among the guests were Bert Hill and Arthur Tasker and representatives from Southport Branch, Fylde Borough Council, CAB, CVS, British Legion, Age Concern and friends.



'Stockport Branch recently took a party of friends from Torkington House on a coach outing to Smithills, Bolton, for lunch. A good time was had by all and we are already looking forward to another trip', says Alan Clarkson.

Members in North Wales celebrated the 80th Anniversary with a service at the English Methodist Church, Old Colwyn, led by Revd Basil Jones and with the address given by Revd Clive Southerton. This was followed by high tea and an evening concert by the Colwyn Male Voice Choir, with Bryn Roberts as soloist. A second celebration, on 10 October, was a Harvest Supper at Rhos-on-Sea with Stewart Casimir and Regional Chair, Cyril Carrier, as guests.



Members of Tavistock Branch at Little Bridge House Children's Hospice for terminally ill children and their families at Fremington, Barnstaple, North Devon. The branch have been very keen supporters of this project from its beginning in August 1991.

Eva Hickman of Newcastle-under-Lyme Branch writes to tell readers about the work of *Headway*, an organisation which helps to support people with head injuries and their carers. This was the subject of an excellent recent Branch talk.



The 80th birthday celebration picnic on Cannock Chase. The ladies pictured are The Beggars Oak Clog Dancers. The celebrations were well attended and the afternoon of entertainments concluded with a service of rededication by the Revd Jill, of St Anne's, Bilston.



Coles Myer, the retail giant in Australia, made a surprise donation to Toc H Victoria with a gift of vouchers worth 1000 dollars at a ceremony at Point Lonsdale Camp in September. Mr Don Thomson presents Herbert Eliyathamby with the vouchers, with John Brownbill looking on.

The 1995 Scottish Conference in Dunblane

The Conference was opened by Scottish Chairman Jim Beveridge, who welcomed representatives from Levenmouth, Coupar Angus, Denny, Ayr, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay and Central Branches. It was most encouraging to also have guests from the new Scottish Group THAT'S (Toc H Action Together at Stroove) as well as project volunteers from Paisley, Ian Scott and Catherine McNab. The Divisional team, including Divisional Field Officer Norah Phipps, were guest speakers at the Conference and based the Conference theme around Mike Lyddiard's equation: **People + Resources x Action = Results**. Once more the Conference highlighted the amount of excellent Toc H work undertaken in Scotland and there was a commitment from everyone present to build on Toc H's achievements in the Country.

BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS

BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS



Following the inaugural meeting of the RPB in April, the branch is making steady progress in terms of numbers and projects. The main objective of the branch is to provide ongoing opportunity for local projects.

The first project was a canal boat venture on the Kennet & Avon Canal,

Southern Region Project Branch (RPB)

which took place in September in collaboration with Newbury Mencap and The Bruce Trust. The project was for six Toc H volunteers to crew a specially adapted canal boat for use by up to six disabled people. In order to maximise the number of Mencap people participating, Mencap brought groups of handicapped children and adults to pick-up points on a daily basis and in this way over 40 people were able to take part.

The Toc H crew found the project very demanding, but fulfilling, as well as providing an opportunity to form friendships and develop personal skills.

The second branch project was a conservation day in collaboration with the Milford-on-Sea Conservation Society and entailed clearing a wooded area in the centre of Milford-on-Sea and unearthing an overgrown pond. This coincided with National Pond Week and the plans of the Milford Conservation Society to improve this

area in the village centre.

The task was physically demanding for the six members who joined up with the conservation team to hack and slash their way through the dense undergrowth. Veteran Toc H member, Stan Hobby, joined the volunteers for lunch, and was able to recall Tubby's involvement with the Milford area.

The branch's projects were discussed in some detail in terms of strengths, weaknesses and follow-ups at an end of season get-together in Salisbury. Early indications are that a more ambitious programme will be forthcoming.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Project Branch and its development should contact the secretary: Doreen Stevens, 10 Coldharbour, Chickerell, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 4BG. Tel: 01305 782555

John Stevens

The Bob Knight Seminar

On 16 September friends and colleagues of the late Revd Bob Knight met together at the Grosvenor Centre, Salisbury, under the Chairmanship of Ken Prideaux-Brune, to give thanks for the life and work of Bob.

Bob's family had requested that no commemorative service be held, but it was felt that some way of expressing the Region's love and respect for Bob's work should be found. Members therefore decided that, although Bob is no longer with us, his presence and influence is still available through his writings, and it would be appropriate to have a special day to study one of his most profound books, *An Honest Test*.

An Honest Test was first printed in September 1968, revised and reprinted in May 1991, and is still considered by many to be extremely relevant in today's society.

Ken Prideaux-Brune, who knew Bob well, agreed to chair the event and set out the ground rules which were:

Nothing said in the room would be

repeated outside.

Individuals could criticise what was said, but not the person.

Individuals could say what they liked and would be listened to.

Individuals could reserve the right to keep silent.

Ken then condensed a number of issues raised in the book, and posed the following questions for group discussion:

What type of people have you met through your involvement with Toc H that you would not otherwise have met? What have you learned from the experience of getting to know them? Identify one category of people that you would like to encourage your branch/group/project to get in touch with, with a view to getting them included. Have you had a transcendent experience? Write down your basic faith in ordinary everyday language.



At the end of the day, without exception, everyone said that they had been profoundly moved by the experience and that it had been a fitting tribute to Bob's life and work.

On a lighter note, when John Dickson, an ex-colleague of Bob's, was asked if he thought Bob would have approved of the day, he commented that he was sure that Bob would have let us know if he hadn't!

John Stevens

BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS

Readers' Letters

TOC H IS HERE FOR EVER

Wow, Wow, Wow, Wow, Wow, Wow!

What a brilliant way to start the morning. I have just received your note with the copies of November's *Point three*. Thank you so much for a brilliant spread. I also feel that it is the best issue I have ever read. I found myself, over breakfast, reading it from cover to cover and I enjoyed every single word.

Your editorial to me summed up how Toc H is still alive and kicking and it doesn't matter how old you are or feel - Toc H is alive and will be forever. The article from the guy tracing his family was very moving yet again. Through all the history he never focuses on the past and is never embittered about what has happened and wants so much to share the Poperinge experience with everyone. Branch News was full of people celebrating the 80th birthday, and what fun they all seem to be having. The Back Page was bursting with new ideas and trips to Poperinge and I felt, after reading all this, that I knew why I was still wanting to make this Movement go on for another 80 years. With reports and articles like this, I think lots of others will too.

Sally Simms
Wellingborough

A TESTIMONY TO THE LIVING TOC H

Well done to Ruth and Jenny. I am writing to express my appreciation and congratulations for the November edition of *Point three*.

I have just read it through from cover to cover and found inspiration - challenge - food for thought - enjoyment - place for reflection and so much more, on each of its pages. Taken together with the new style, I felt this edition to be one that stands as a complete testimony to the *living Toc H*.

I was especially inspired on reading the diary of Jim Simpson and Sally Simms' *Ferry Challenge*. I hope every member will read this feature and realise the amount of time that was spent in planning and carrying out this event. That 14 Challenges were completed ashore by the project volunteers, while Jim was crossing the English Channel and North Sea fourteen times, took my breath away. How many of us would have been prepared to begin to plan such an event and overcome the many problems as they arose during the crossings? Not many I suspect! But Toc H has always challenged the young of all ages to reach out and tackle the impossible; it's good to read that it still attracts those who are prepared to do this.

And what an inspiring piece of poetry to close the piece with - thank you for that alone.

1996 is the year that Toc H and the National Blood Authority have agreed to mark the latter's 50th anniversary, with the holding of a Toc H Blood Donor Day on Saturday 8 June. I hope and pray that every branch will take their lead from Jim and Sally's *Ferry Challenge* and apply the same principles, to make sure that the Day is an overwhelming success and will show that Toc H is still relevant and does care for the important matters in every community.

John Biggerstaff
Wendover

FURTHERING UNDERSTANDING

I was excited to read Hugh Potts' letter (November *Point three*) outlining how the Movement can play an active role in furthering understanding between people of different denominations.

There is great scope for putting faith into practical action.

I would like to suggest that the concept can be broader than between people of various Christian denominations. There is also great scope for Toc H to make a difference between people of different faiths where there is often enormous racial and religious tension.

However, a different approach might be needed. In the context of Christian denominations, Hugh suggests working through Church leaders. Following the recent riots in Bradford, the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Revd David Smith, said: 'We have links with Muslim leaders but, like them, few links with Muslim youth'. And it is young people who often feel the most mistrust and doubt.

By deliberately involving people of different faiths together in practical action at the grass roots, we can sow the seeds of understanding and cooperation. A good example of this was a project organised by the Christian Missionary Society last year, when a group of Christian young people joined a group of Muslim young people for a few days' hill walking. In the process they learned a lot from each other. I wonder what impact friendships made during this type of project could have in years to come, perhaps in helping to secure a more open and just society?

Ian Pearce
Wendover

Readers' Letters

YOUR HELP IN SAVING TOC H

Mike Lyddiard's article, Our Movement's Future, in the June issue of *Point three*, reminded us of the seriousness of the financial future of Toc H. After some hesitation, I risk making the following suggestion.

Toc H and the Royal British Legion were born out of the same tragedy of World War One, at about the same time in our history. Toc H was to care for the spiritual needs of the returning soldiers, the British Legion to assist them materially.

Today, both movements are experiencing difficulties in maintaining the momentum of the past 75 years and, in a changing world, their raison d'être has become less evident, even obscure to many.

Each year, within three or four weeks, the RBL Poppy Appeal raises about £15 million, thanks, in the main, to devoted street collectors. In Belgium the appeal is carried out by placing poppy trays and collection boxes at concurring companies, shops, churches and schools. No collectors are needed except those members who place and gather the boxes.

In the UK there are more than 3000 RBL branches and over 600 RBL social clubs. Now for the suggestion!

Why not organise a Toc H Lamp Appeal?

An excellent date would be 11 December, the date of the opening of Talbot House by Tubby Clayton. A month after the RBL Poppy Appeal and in the run-up to Christmas.

With the right approach from the CEC to the National Council of the RBL, it is possible that an agreement could be reached to allow Toc H to place trays of paper/plastic 'lamps' for ten days in each RBL Social Club, together with explanatory pamphlets. The potential scope of a national Toc H Day would be considerable and could include collections at churches and branches of national retail companies.

Imagine the publicity and interest this would generate. Perhaps even helping to solve the membership problem.

The whole idea may seem Utopian, but surely no more than the great adventure begun that day by Tubby Clayton.

Reg Whitburn
Belgium

WE WILL REMEMBER

There was a tap on the car window as I sat parked in Faversham. 'I saw your Toc H sticker', said the lady outside. 'My brother was in Toc H. He always talked about it'. Later she and her husband welcomed us at their home. Mrs Allen, one of nine children, told us of

her pre-war family life in London. With deep feeling she recalled her girlhood hero, her older brother, Len Noble. Something of a tearaway, he had joined the Army in 1929. He served in India, where he first met Toc H. 'He loved his Toc H', she said. 'He met Tubby Clayton and thought the world of him. He was a great influence on Len'.

She showed me a photograph of the Meerut Branch banner. On 24 August 1942, following a terrifying all night barrage by 900 guns, Len was among the 7th Armoured Division of the Rifle Brigade who were sent ahead to clear Snipers Ridge and open a way for the 8th Army to move forward in the battle of El Alamein. It was to be the first Allied victory in three years of war. On that day, Warrant Officer Len Noble, Toc H member No.1990, fell in battle.

A loving sister treasures his memory and lives with a sadness which cannot be erased. She entrusted me with a small envelope containing her few mementoes. They lie before me as I write.

An Army pay book reveals Len's few personal details: from his enlistment at 18 years in 1929 when he was a butcher's roundsman, to his appointment as Warrant Officer in 1942. Across each page, stamped in red, is the word 'DECEASED'. A small, yellow-backed Toc H India and Burma notebook for 1942 gives fascinating details of Toc H - 'A family with a great and sacred tradition'. SGH Davis is Chairman of Southern India Region Executive Committee (George is still a member of our current Central Council and former Hon. Administrator of Toc H). There is a list of 13 men of all ranks. Are they Toc H friends? The calendar for July and August is crossed out daily until Thursday 20 August..... On another page he has written, 'Reunion date Jan 25. First January after war. U.J.Club, Waterloo Road. See Personal Col. in London papers'. The only other items are the photographs reproduced here. They say more than any words of mine.

John Bayes
Cleveland

Photos copied and reproduced by kind permission of Alan Philipson of Middlesbrough Branch,



Domestic violence

The UK Men's Movement have said that the Body Shop's Domestic Violence campaign was unhelpful to men.

The Body shop say that 1 in 5 women suffer behind closed doors, the UKMM say that it is *men* who are 50% more likely to be the victims of domestic violence.

100,000 women a year receive treatment in London Hospitals after domestic violence. The UKMM say that this figure is a myth.



Over the weekend of the 2nd to 4th February 1996, TOC H is organising a Cameo for people who see issues of gender in very different ways. It will be an opportunity to meet with people who hold different values. It will be a chance, not to confirm what we already believe, but to consider and challenge our current opinions and ideas.

The aim of this meeting is not just to seek agreement about domestic violence, it is about understanding more of the relationship between men and women.

If you would like to contribute to, or attend, this Cameo please contact: Sarah Cottingham on 0121 553 4479

Join us in person or in prayer in a

Prayer Vigil



for

TOC H

January 15th, 1996

Initiated by TOC H sheaf branch



Please contact

Dennis & Jean Fielding

01142 367583

Coach Trip to Talbot House, Poperinge 2-7 May 1996

Jack and Pat Turner are running a trip to Talbot House and invite you to join them.

Cost approx. £210

For further details please contact:

Jack and Pat Turner, 60 Hall End Road, Wootton, Beds
MK43 9HP Tel: 01234 768410

The Friends of Alison House
invite you to

An Introduction to Crafts

25-28 March 1996

An opportunity to try your hand at something new!

For further information please contact Bill Pepper:
01629 822316

Anne Willis sends Christmas greetings and every good wish for 1996 to the membership and particularly former staff. She will be compiling the former staff newsletter in February and news of colleagues and their families will be most welcome.

We are recruiting new supporters through the *Toc H Community Initiative*. Our target is to recruit 2,000 new supporters by 31 March 1996. Please help by distributing copies of the *Community Initiative* leaflet in your area.

For more information and supplies of the leaflets, please contact Mike Lyddiard at Headquarters.

Reflections - A series of occasional papers exploring Toc H in contemporary society.

Issue No. 2 now available:

**A Drop of Fairmindedness
or**

Whisky for the Winos?

by

John Mitchell

Available from publications department at Wendover. Any contributions towards printing and postage are welcomed.